

ance establishes beyond doubt or controversy, that the ordinary use and abuse of ardent spirits are, inseparable. As long as the article is employed as a means of exhilaration or refreshment, so long appetite will be created, the cravings of which will be indulged in defiance of consequences, and to a wide extent, in spite of every effort at prevention, the drunkard's habits and vices and woes will continue to annoy and afflict the public. With just as much reason may we cherish the anticipation that any maxim of mathematical truth, or any principle of physical science will prove false, as that this position shall be found untrue. But as long as the article is offered for sale in our stores and taverns to the intemperate, the hope is visionary and idle, that it will not be bought and consumed, and produce its legitimate and melancholy effects. The allurements of opportunity and temptation will be too powerful for those who are already under the dominion of a depraved appetite; and others, especially the young, bent on pleasure, and reckless of consequences, or not awake to its ruinous tendency, will indulge themselves in drinking, until they have fastened upon themselves the bonds of an inexorable and fatal habit. The traffic, then, must be done away with, or the vice of intemperance, with its sad train of evils, must be endured.

But who will suppose that the vending of ardent liquors can be prevented, without a legal prohibition? There are men in every community, who are regardless of the means by which they acquire gain; and if this traffic can be made profitable, it will be prosecuted, in spite of its nefarious character. Others, too, who might be willing, and even rejoiced to relinquish it, will still continue it, from the apprehension that some of those around them, will in that case acquire an advantage over them in their business, highly injurious in its results.

That the traffic is wrong, is a position capable of the most satisfactory and unquestionable proof. We are to a wide extent, to estimate our conduct by its tendencies. And certainly a traffic which is suited to foster and perpetuate and extend one of the grossest and most noxious of all the vices, which degrade, corrupt, afflict and ruin mankind, cannot but be marked with guilt. And every man who vends ardent spirit may rightfully be regarded as an accessory before the fact to all the evils which may be the result. But ought it to be a question with the Legislature of a community like ours whether they shall continue to give a legal character to sin? Ought it to be a question whether we shall still say to a numerous class of individuals through the State—if you are willing to pay for the privilege, we will authorize you to engage in an employment which cannot be carried on without iniquity, and which may justly be pronounced, as it regards the public, a species of political suicide.

Again, the sanction which the law gives this traffic, ought to be withdrawn, in view of its influence upon the sentiments and feelings of large numbers in the community. It renders ineffectual all appeals to the consciences and to the better feelings of very many of those engaged in this noxious commerce. They shield themselves from responsibility and blame, beyond the license which they receive from legislative authority. To no purpose are they told that their business is wrong, while the statute-book pronounces it right. And the inference is not a remote one, that if vending be right, buying and consuming cannot be wrong. Hence the license law operates in a manner most mischievous, affording a quietus to men's consciences with regard to the course which they are pursuing; when, if there were no law upon the subject, they would be more open to a conviction of their guilt; and more accessible to inducements to reform. Your committee, however, would by no means contemplate a repeal of the existing law, without enacting a substitute. For while in one point of view, it sanctions and legalizes the traffic in ardent spirits, in another, it operates as a restraining statute. There is, we are persuaded, a less extensive sale of the article than if all laws on the subject were now done away. The law, carrying as it does, the seal of reprobation upon itself, by the monopoly which it creates, and by the explicit declaration which it makes, that the business is such as cannot safely be left open, like all useful employments, to the enterprise and competition of the whole community,—is still one which cannot, without injury, be dispensed with. Such are the views and feelings of a considerable portion of the public, created in part by apprehension, by the existing law itself, that if it were repealed, the places at which intoxicating liquors are sold would be greatly multiplied; and prosecution at common law, followed by conviction and punishment, could not be expected for an act, to which the statute had so long granted not only toleration, but also a legal character. In New-Orleans, not long since, an analogous case existed. The city authorities had long been in the practice of licensing gaming-houses, and had derived from it a large revenue. But they had become convinced that these establishments were public nuisances, and that the money received was a poor remuneration to the community for the injury it sustained. What in this case did they deem it necessary to do? Did they merely decline issuing licenses, and a compensation for them; leaving every man who chose, at liberty to open a gaming house? On the contrary, they enacted a decided prohibitory statute, enforced by severe penalties, heavy fines, and protracted imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Your committee will close their discussion of this subject, by noticing two or three difficulties, with which they believe that some minds are perplexed.

It has been made a question by some, whether the Legislature has a constitutional right to enact on this subject, a prohibitory law. But if we have not this right, the provision of our national or state constitution, can be pointed out, in which that right has been surrendered. But your committee have yet to learn where the essential attribute of every government,—self-preservation,—has been parted with by us, so that we cannot defend ourselves against corruption and ruin, by interdicting what is incompatible with public virtue and happiness and safety.

But we remark further, that unless our present laws on this subject are a tissue of usurpation, and all unconstitutional and null, we have beyond controversy, the right of entire interdiction. For if we have authority to say that no man shall sell spirituous liquors unless he pays five dollars for a license, we may say that no one shall do it unless he pays five hundred dollars; and if five hundred, then, we may say five thousand. We may thus prohibit indirectly, by fixing the price of a license so high that it will be for no man's interest, and within the scope of no man's means, to pay it. But, it is one of the plainest and best settled principles of law and ethics and common sense, that what a man may not do directly, he may not do indirectly. And where no constitutional provision is involved, the doctrine which holds true of an individual is true of a legislative body. If then, the whole system of licenses in this state and in all the states of this country, be not unconstitutional and a downright usurpation,—and the validity of the system, has never, that we are aware of, been called in question,—we may prohibit directly by making it penal to sell; or by fixing the fee for a license so high that no man either will or can buy.

There are some, however, who appear to labor under the misapprehension, that a prohibitory law would be an encroachment on the rights of the community, and chargeable with injustice and oppression. But no individual has rights at war with the public safety and welfare. It is a principle of law well settled, and every where recognized, that no man is at liberty to use even his own property in such manner as to essentially injure others, or to become a public nuisance. On the ground that the public good is to limit the rights, and to regulate and control the conduct of the members of society, our entire system of jurisprudence proceeds. A man may, to be sure, do whatever he pleases, so long as he does not injure other individuals or the public. But when he passes this limit, his rights cease. Now, then, if vending ardent spirits is noxious to his fellow-men, and at war with the vital interests of the public, no man has a right to embark in the business. Why has not a man as perfect a right to convert his tenement into a gaming house, or his farm into a race-course, as to open a grog shop, or a store for the sale of ardent spirits? Your Committee are utterly unable to discover what there is so peculiarly sacred and inviolable in this traffic, that it ought to be exempted from the lot of other vicious and baneful practices, on which the law does not hesitate to lay its hand.

In proof that the measure proposed is no impracticable and visionary project, the committee beg leave to refer you to what has actually been done in that part of Massachusetts, denominated the Old Colony, containing a population of 120,000 people, where the traffic in all its forms, has been effectually stopped, not indeed by the action of the Legislature, but by the county commissioners, with whom the power of granting or withholding licenses, is entrusted. The results of the measure have been in every view, auspicious. This is evidenced by the increased, and more decided approbation of the community, shown by their election by augmented majorities of commissioners known to be in favor of this course; and by the calendars of their courts of civil and criminal justice—cases of the latter kind having become all but extinct. And if a regulation of this character can be carried into effect there, we see no reason why a statute embracing the same principles, could not be carried into effect here, characterized as this state has always been by a deference for law and a general spirit of subordination to its prescriptions.

All which is respectfully submitted.
LYMAN FITCH, for Com.

THE TELEGRAPH.

BRANDON, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30.

COMMON SCHOOLS.—*Defining.*—The former practice was, to leave defining to be gained by chance, or to be left out and lost. And the odds against the chance of gaining it was truly formidable. Nothing but the most indomitable perseverance, urged on by out-of-school influences, made any considerable progress in this greatly important attainment. In general, those, and those only, who were furnished with books and encouraged to read at home, made considerable advancement under this head.

The failure here originated in the radical defects of the system, already noticed—in learning the child to make sounds without sense, to form words and utter them without corresponding ideas. The first lesson was to read, "A, B, C," and sit on the bench. After this task, ink-some and unhealthful to body and mind, had been performed month after month, a worn-out leaf was turned over, and b-a-

ba; c-a, ca; d-a, da; and sitting on the bench, was another lesson for another term of months. The next step was, to make these unmeaning syllables, which had been formed out of unmeaning letters, into unmeaning words. This—always with sitting on the bench—was another work of months.

After this tedious, disheartening, disgusting process, how could it be expected that these unmeaning words would be readily formed into meaning sentences?—It could not be done. The learner went on, much as he had thus far been taught, stupidly arranging unmeaning characters, and uttering senseless sounds.

To remedy the evil, or to teach defining, some of the would-be spelling book reformers have arranged vocabularies with annexed definitions. This, instead of being a remedy, is but another facility for wasting time and paralyzing energy. No considerable progress can be made in defining, except from the careful use of words in sentences. The names of persons, places and things may be learned from vocabularies, but a large proportion of language will and can, only be well understood from its use in sentences. A vocabulary, or a dictionary is a necessary thing, rightly used. They should be used only in connection with reading. To undertake to commit the definitions of large classes or numbers of words at once, is like undertaking at first with all the alphabet at a lesson. Confusion and defeat ensue. *One thing at a time.* Let the child learn one word at a time, and understand it; and never be allowed to read a word, or pass over it, without understanding it. Let him be taught to stop at what he does not understand, and after reasonably taxing his own powers, to consult the dictionary or the living teacher.

The books formerly used for teaching young learners to read, have been almost any thing but fit instruments. The "English Reader," so common for the last fifteen years, is made up of matter a large portion of which is above the comprehension of one half of the parents and school teachers themselves. Most other books formerly placed in the hands of the young learner, present, in a greater or less degree, the same objections. We rejoice that a more auspicious day is dawning.—Light is breaking forth. Rational reform is advancing. Reason is displacing blind, arbitrary customs.

Of the books which we have seen, Worcester's Primer, and Cobb's Toys for children, are among the best for the beginner. We shall speak of others as there may be occasion.

[To be continued.]

THE LICENSE SYSTEM.—The report of the Committee of the Legislature on this subject is an able document, worthy of careful perusal. Their want of moral courage, manifest in their expression of fears that public opinion is not prepared for the measure recommended by the memorialists, while they will not undertake to controvert the views of the memorialists, is deplorable; yet it is just what might have been expected. Let every friend of the measure now strain every nerve to set public opinion right and get it prepared for all the Legislature wishes to do on the subject, in the shape of interdiction, at its next session.

The objection, that interdiction would be unconstitutional, is well answered, and in our view put to rest. Really, if there is constitutional power to require five dollars, why not ten, or ten thousand? We cannot see. Then, again, if our legislators are the conservators of public morals, clothed with constitutional power to suppress gambling, duelling, profanity and other public nuisances, it is a sad inconsistency that they should have no power over one of the chief causes of these nuisances.

DISTRESSING INTELLIGENCE.—Extract of a letter from brother McKee, dated, SHAFTSBURY, NOV. 21, 1836.

"A solemnly afflictive event occurred here last Tuesday morning, which has astonished and filled with grief this whole community. Deacon George Galusha, in a state of ill health and mental derangement, destroyed himself by hanging!! His character has long been that of an honest, peaceable, quiet man—faithful, liberal and consistent. Perhaps few men had the esteem and confidence of all who knew them in an equal degree."

Miscellaneous information concerning New Hampton Institution necessarily deferred another week.

The Albany Exchange is to be constructed of granite from Penobscot, Me. It is said that this State abounds in that article, inferior to little, if any, in the world.

LETTER FROM BROTHER DENISON.—Go on, old friend and yoke-fellow, doing good. The Telegraph shall follow you as long as you will let us know where it may find you.

WILMINGTON, Del. Nov. 15, 1836.

Dear brother Murray:—I suppose you will be surprised at receiving a letter from me, bearing the above date. Indeed, two months ago I should have been surprised at it myself. But the leadings of Providence seem clearly to have drawn me here—partly on account of the health of my companion requiring a more Southern climate—and partly with a view to my being more directly identified than I have been with the Baptist cause. With regard to the first, I have never been so pleasantly situated as now; and as to the second consideration, I hope I may not be altogether useless in this Anti-Mission, Anti-Temperance, Anti-every benevolent effort State—at least among the ultras of our denomination—while laboring as pastor of the Second Baptist church in this city.

You would be astonished at the apathy which prevails, in some parts of this State, with reference to the religious enterprises of the present day. The first regular Missionary and Sabbath School concert of prayer ever held in this State, took place in our church a few evenings ago! We are in the region, and therefore under the partial shadow, of the two well known "Black Rock Association." The "Signs of the Times" circulates somewhat extensively in the lower part of the State; although I am happy to say that its patrons are rapidly decreasing here. Our young and feeble church has taken a bold stand, resolved to sink or swim with the word of God. Need I ask: Will you pray for us?

I find many opportunities of attempting to do good among our never-to-be-forgotten brethren of color. There are crowds of them around me. They have two churches, and will probably ere long organize another. One thing has struck me with much force—that there is far less prejudice against a colored skin, among all classes, than in many places farther North.

Several facts, showing the unobtrusive but deep interest taken in the welfare of the colored race, have come under my observation. In the family where I was hospitably entertained for several months, were a number of ladies who manifested such an interest in a manner very pleasing to my feelings. Two of them are reputed to be quite wealthy—and yet they did not think themselves degraded by the side of colored adults, in the kitchen, teaching them to read. I looked in on a class of this kind a few evenings since; and I assure you it was a refreshing sight.

One evening last week, while the family were at tea, a gentle knock at one of the doors called an adopted daughter of my hostess from the seat at the table.—And who should she let in, from a dark storm of rain without, but a little colored girl? When asked by the mother her errand at such a time, she whispered near to the daughter: "I have come to school."

She was taken by her young teacher (who is said to be an heiress to a handsome estate,) into the parlor, while we continued our tea, and amused there by listening to the piano until it was time for "school" to commence.

Yesterday a colored brother called on me who has been for many years preaching among his brethren at the West.—Hunted down like partridges on the mountains, they have at length succeeded in procuring a small parcel of land on the Ohio river. They have begun to erect a house for the worship of God—a part of which is to be devoted to a school—and send out our brother to obtain aid. Thanks be to God! he has found some friends here. He will perhaps visit New-England; and should he do so, I doubt not you will Telegraph his approach with a practical evidence of the truth of the doctrines of immediate emancipation.

His name is OWEN DAVIS. He was not born a slave—born a slave did I say? who is?—but his birth place is North-Carolina. Poor brother! he was never learned to read and write; and although he has been a preacher for sixteen years, he cannot peruse a word of the Bible.—Yet it would do your heart good to hear him speak on divine things. Last evening he attended a prayer meeting among my people; and while he spoke of a preparation for another world, I could not but tremble lest some of my dying congregation who have been able to read their Bibles from youth up, should find him a swift witness against them in the day of judgment.

One of the most cheering facts I have met

with is the readiness of the more intelligent classes to converse on the subject of slavery. Strange as it may sound to some—a man may fearlessly yet kindly express his opinion here without being mobbed. Last Saturday evening there was a public discussion of the merits of Colonization and Anti-Slavery Societies. It was held in the Lecture Room of the Second Presbyterian church. There was no disturbance, although the Colonization advocates came out, as they often do, in a strong tirade in favor of Slavery, and abusing the Abolitionists. Next Saturday evening the debate is to be repeated.

But although on a deeply interesting topic, I fear I am becoming too prolix; and I will therefore close by placing at your disposal the following:

THE TEMPERANCE BATTLE SONG.

Brothers! the battle is but begun—
The victory is far from won—
Hark! hear the trumpet call!
It calls to arms! to arms!
March on! the foe is here—is there—
Above—below—ay, every where:
Hark! hear the trumpet call!
It calls to arms! to arms!
Look! his infernal, reeling tread
With murdered souls is deeply red!
Aloud the trumpet calls!
It calls to arms! to arms!
See yonder wine-killed phalanx now!
See host on host beer-slaughtered bow!
Louder the trumpet calls!
It calls to arms! to arms!
All o'er the heaped and smoking field
That multitude besotted yield!
And yet the trumpet calls!
It calls to arms! to arms!
To arms! and bravely front the foe!
The Lord of Truth shall lay him low—
Once more the trumpet calls!
It calls to arms! to arms!
To arms! till death—or till we see
A sure and glorious victory!
For this the trumpet calls!
It calls to arms! to arms!
In the cause of God and man,
Your humble brother,
C. W. D.

FREE LABOR GOODS.—In a line just received from our friend Benjamin F. Haskell, merchant in Cornwall and Ferrisburgh, he informs us that he has lately made a considerable purchase of calicoes, cottons, bleached and unbleached, coffee, sugars and molasses, all of which are untainted with the blood or sweat of the unrequited slave.

We give this information for our conscientious friends, hoping that they will encourage friend Haskell to continue this laudable and humane business. If it be true that the knowing partaker is *particeps criminis* with the robber and thief, then how can they be innocent who keep the market open for the products of slave labor? If there be "woe unto him who useth his neighbor's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work," what is unto him who encourages this robbery, by buying and consuming its fruits? How long would the extortioner continue to extort if he could not profit by extortion—if no one would purchase the contaminated articles from his blood-stained hands? And how long will philanthropists—how long will abolitionists remain indifferent to this subject? Let them know and not forget that while the slavery-produced sugar and cotton, are nourishment and clothing to them, they are torment and death to the poor vassal.

We repeat the expression of our hope that friend Haskell will be sustained in this enterprise. And it may not be amiss to say farther, for the information of others who purchase at New-York, and have any conscience on this point, that they will be very sure to get genuine articles of Charles Collins, Franklin Square.

KIDNAPPING.—It is said that there have been several recent cases of kidnapping in this city—cases in which children have been enticed away from their parents, and transported to the south. Two of these cases, we are told, were those of children on their way to school. The third has just come to our knowledge. A little girl, twelve years old, named Jane Green, was enticed away from her parents living in the upper part of the city, about two months since. It was not, however, until day before yesterday, that the friends of the child ascertained where she was probably concealed. Immediate application was made for a writ of habeas corpus; but the hour was too late the Judge could not be found. Judge Ulschesser yesterday granted the writ; but it was too late, the man and his reputed wife having taken leave during the preceding night—taking the child with them—for Florida, as it is said, by the way of New Orleans. His name is M. Reveloid, said to be a Frenchman. It is hoped that the humane will look after the case, and if possible rescue the child from bondage.—N. Y. Spec.

Kidnapping is as detestable and wicked in New-York, as in the District of Columbia, Virginia or elsewhere, and as we can conceive, no more so. But it is

idle to inveigh against it in New-York, and at the same time justify and support a legalized system of it in one half of the United States. As long as the market is kept open it will be supplied; and it is no more sinful to supply it from New-York than from Virginia.

INHUMANITY.—The Newark Daily Advertiser exposes a case of most inhuman conduct exhibited by one Caleb Abbott, late a teacher in the academy at that place, and his wife and brother-in-law, Charles Anderson by name, towards a helpless child of eight or nine years old, whose widowed mother lives at Schenectady, and who, poor orphan, has the misfortune to be bound to Mr Abbott as a servant. The duties of the little unfortunate have been unreasonably severe, and her failures & deficiencies have been punished with inhuman severity. The Daily Advertiser thus describes the evidence of cruelty borne by the person of the little victim:

"Its body is covered throughout, limbs, head and trunk, with bruises and scars, and marks of severe flagellation with a rattan or other weapon. When we were called to look at it on Friday, the blood produced by the last punishment was still fresh upon its inner garments, and the skin was broken in various places. The child's face also carries visible tokens of the species of discipline to which it has been subjected. But we forbear a description which could not fail to excite the sensibilities of the reader, and which might unnecessarily increase the already high excitement which the case has produced."

How can a man—much less a woman—be guilty of unkindness to a child?—What innate brutality of disposition can resist the silent but most eloquent pleadings of its tender years, its frame unfitted to endure, and its unresisting helplessness? And what parent will entrust his offspring to the hands of one who could thus abuse the strength which ought to be exerted only for protection, and the authority which should be employed with gentleness and mercy, only for guidance in the path that leads to industry and virtue?

We rejoice to say that the little servant girl has found protectors, and that measures are in progress for the punishment of her oppressors.—N. Y. Spectator.

We accord, entirely, with the editor of the Spectator in his here expressed views of this case of shocking inhumanity; and in connection with this avowal we feel strongly inclined to inquire how it is that this humane editor passes by, worse than unnoticed, the case of myriads whose "oppressors" oppress with impunity, and defy "punishment?" "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel!"

ELECTION.—The following estimate is taken from the New-York Spectator, a Whig paper:

The electors chosen, as far as positive results have been ascertained, stand as follows:

Harrison. Van Buren.	
N. York	42
Pennsylvania	30
Vermont	7
Delaware	3
Connecticut	8
Maryland	10
Ohio	21
N. Hampshire	7
Maine	10
Virginia	23
New-Jersey	8
Massachusetts	14
Rhode-Island	4
North-Carolina	15
Kentucky	15
	78
	139

Necessary to a choice 146.
States to be heard from—considered as certain:

Arkansas	3
Missouri	4
Indiana	9
Tennessee	15
South-Carolina	11
	35
	7

Estimated result of states to come in.

Alabama	7
Illinois	5
Louisiana	5
Mississippi	4
Georgia	11
	11
Doubtful	27
Result ascertained	78
States considered certain	35
	7

140 151
From this statement, the vote will be a very close one. But it is very possible that several of the states set down as doubtful, will cast their votes for Mr. Van Buren.

The Brooklyn Advertiser reports the loss of 96 lives with the ship Bristol.—The New-York American holds the pilots responsible for this loss of human life. The Evening Post throws the responsibility upon the legislature and the people, for suffering the existence of a bad system, of which it is contended this mischief and waste of life is the legitimate result. The latter avers that the system is a monopoly and that the pilots are just what it makes them.

TEXAS.—Burnett has resigned the presidency and Houston has been appointed substitute.